



from the desk of  
REPRESENTATIVE DAVE WOLKINS

Dear Neighbor:

*This economic recession has left Indiana with declining revenues and little money. I had to make some tough decisions, but we were still able to have a successful session.*

*In January, I pledged to support and vote for legislation with four goals in mind: create and protect Hoosiers' jobs, not create new tax increases, live within our means and allow Hoosiers to vote for permanent property tax caps on the November ballot.*

*Gladly, I was able to reach those goals while providing the best services possible for Hoosiers. Plenty of hard work, intense discussions and debates took place in order to protect Indiana.*

*Until next January, I'll be working on creating new legislation and studying issues for next year. Through the whole process I will continue to try to protect your wallet.*

*It's an honor to represent you in the Indiana House of Representatives.*

Sincerely,

*Dave Wolkins*  
Rep. Dave Wolkins



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2010

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**DAVE WOLKINS**





# DAVE WOLKINS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE · HOUSE DISTRICT 18

## CREATING HOOSIER JOBS



I voted for legislation that authorizes the use of public-private partnerships for the construction of the Illiana Expressway in Northwest Indiana and the Ohio River Bridges project in Southern Indiana. These two projects have the potential to create more than 10,000 jobs. I will continue to support initiatives that make Indiana an attractive environment for job growth.



## HELPING HOOSIER FARMERS

I voted to save Hoosier farmers nearly \$20 million on their property tax bills in 2011 by improving the system for assessing farm land. Farm land assessments will now be based on an adjusted six-year average that eliminates the highest value over the six-year period.

## CONTROLLING SPENDING



Another focus I had this session was to make certain that there would be no new tax increases. Unlike Washington, D.C., I believe the State of Indiana is making prudent fiscal decisions. In my opinion, it is simply not an option to raise Hoosier taxes due to our state government's budget shortcomings. We first must live within our means.

*"In my opinion... we first must live within our means."*

Increasing taxes should never be our first resort, but rather our last. I was thrilled that there were no new taxes passed this session.



## SUPPORTING SCHOOL FUNDING FLEXIBILITY

I voted to help schools redirect up to \$60 million to help fill gaps that came as a result of the state funding reductions. I believe this additional money will help with teacher job retention during these difficult economic times.



## HELPING SENIOR CITIZENS

I supported giving senior citizens, and all Hoosiers, the ability to vote

to constitutionally cap their property tax bills to no more than 1% of their home's assessed value. Additionally, it is now clear that senior citizens are able to receive both the senior citizen's property tax deduction and the supplemental standard deduction. I also voted to have courts work through established programs when appointing advocates for incapacitated persons over the age of 55.



## SUPPORTING HOOSIER VETERANS

I voted to protect veterans from

debt collectors who try to collect from service members' disability benefits. I also supported legislation to ensure that all Indiana National Guard members returning from active duty service receive face-to-face care from a professional mental health provider if they need it to help with the stress of combat.

